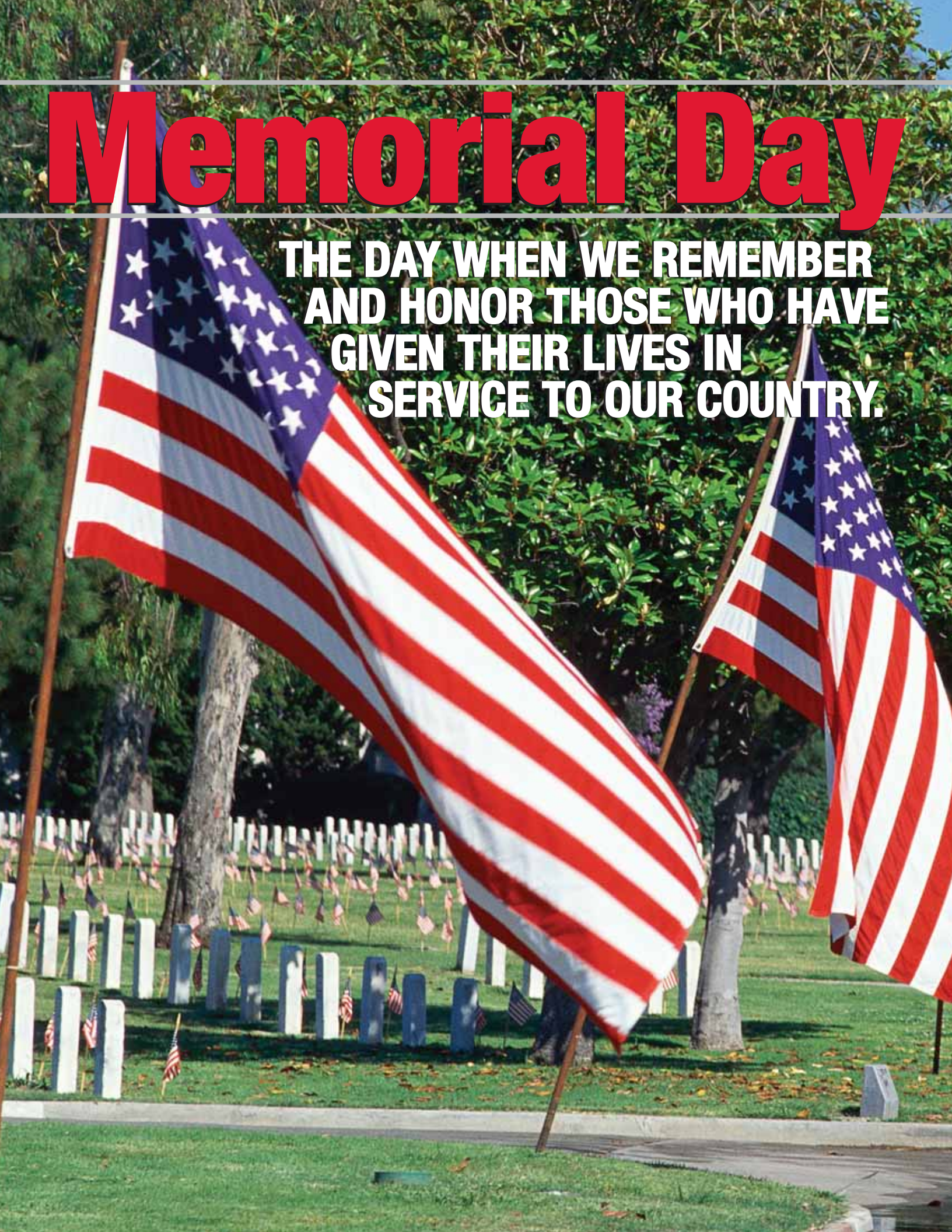


Memorial Day

**THE DAY WHEN WE REMEMBER
AND HONOR THOSE WHO HAVE
GIVEN THEIR LIVES IN
SERVICE TO OUR COUNTRY.**





**CONGRESSMAN
Eliot L. Engel**

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Committees:

**Energy and Commerce
Committee**

Health Subcommittee

Telecommunications and the
Internet Subcommittee

**Foreign Affairs
Committee**

Chair, Western Hemisphere
Subcommittee

Europe Subcommittee

Middle East and South Asia
Subcommittee

Information for Veterans

[www.co.rockland.ny.us/
vets/veterans.html](http://www.co.rockland.ny.us/vets/veterans.html)

[www.westchestergov.
com/veterans/](http://www.westchestergov.com/veterans/)

[www.nyc.gov/html/vets/
html/home/home.shtml](http://www.nyc.gov/html/vets/html/home/home.shtml)

Congressman Eliot Engel is Working in Congress for America's Veterans

Several years ago Congressman Eliot Engel was asked why he has worked to improve veterans and benefits. He responded. **"We cannot be a great society if we treat our veterans poorly. We cannot be a great society if we ignore those who have done so much for all of us. We cannot be a great society if we fail those who did not fail us."**

Congressman Engel worked to increase the 2008 Veterans Administration budget by \$6.6 billion, the largest increase in the VA budget in history.

These funds will help make sure veterans have the resources, benefits and health care they deserve. Currently the VA provides care for 5.8 million patients, including about 263,000 Iraq and Afghanistan veterans.

To reduce the backlog of veterans waiting for their earned benefits (almost 400,000 claims), 1,800 additional claims processors are to be hired as part of the legislation.

The legislation provides funds to improve Veterans hospitals including those in the Bronx and at Montrose. In addition the VA agreed to construct a new "multi-specialty" outpatient center at Montrose to serve area veterans.

Over the years Engel has secured millions in federal funds for services at the VA hospitals that serve veterans in our Congressional District.

Recently Engel voted for the Defense Authorization bill. This legislation included the Wounded Warrior Act that requires the VA provide the highest standard of cleanliness and maintenance, twice yearly room inspections, increases caseworker training, and creates an ombudsman for wounded veterans. This will prevent conditions like those discovered at Walter Reed Hospital from ever happening again at any VA hospital.

The legislation blocked fee increases in the military health care program.

The Defense Authorization bill gives our service men and women a long overdue pay increase, and includes funds so our soldiers will have better, more protective equipment to reduce the dangers they face in combat.

Congressman Engel supports legislation to provide automatic cost-of-living increases for veterans' benefits.

To make sure all veterans know about their rights to benefits, he supported legislation to provide federal funds for outreach to veterans. "Too many veterans of all ages, especially those who served in Iraq and Afghanistan, do not know about their rights to benefits," Engel stated.

Engel has been a consistent supporter of the "Independent Budget" proposals, which are VA budgets, co-authored each year by the AMVETS, Disabled American Veterans, the Veterans of Foreign Wars and Paralyzed Veterans of America.

US House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3217

Official Business

Eliot L. Engel
M.C.
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